

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 049275

65

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /024 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W-GADIES:DFE

APPROVED BY AF/W-TWMSMITH

AF/P-JPOPE (SUBS)

----- 060141

R 281643Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 049275

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, DM

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON BENIN

REF: COTONOU 355

ABIDJAN PASS REDSO

SUMMARY: ARTICLE ON BENIN WRITTEN BY REPORTER KAREN DEYOUNG

APPEARED IN FEBRUARY 27 WASHINGTON POST WITH COTONOU DATE-

LINE. ARTICLE IS MAINLY SUMMARY OF EFFECTS OF TURN TO

MARXISM-LENINISM IN BENIN, AND CONTAINS RELATIVELY FEW

FACTUAL INACCURACIES. ARTICLE DOES NOTE RECENT ANTI-US

FEELING IN BENIN, AND CLAIMS NIGERIAN COUP PLOTTERS WERE

DENOUNCED BY BENINESE GOVERNMENT AS BEING IN PAY OF US.

NO MENTION MADE OF AMBASSADOR ENGLE'S DEPARTURE FROM

COTONOU ON CONSULTATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. ARTICLE BY KAREN DEYOUNG ENTITLED "BENIN TURNS TO
SOCIALISM; NEW NAME, NEW FRIENDS, BUT OLD AFRICANS PRO-
BLEMS PERSIST" APPEARED-IN FEBRUARY 27 WASHINGTON POST WITH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 049275

COTONOU DATELINE. SALIENT POINTS OF-FOUR-COLUMN ARTICLE

SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

-- SWITCH TO SOCIALISM HAS LED TO WAVE OF NATIONALIZATIONS AND IMPOVERISHMENT OF MIDDLE CLASS (BOTH FOREIGN AND LOCAL), MOST OF WHOM NOW PLANNING TO LEAVE.

-- SOCIALISM HAS HAD LITTLE IMPACT ON DAILY LIFE OF AVERAGE BENINESE, ONE OF WHOM QUOTED AS SAYING: "MY STOMACH SAYS THAT I HAD BETTER BE FOR THE REVOLUTION."

-- BENINESE SOCIALISM IS MIXTURE OF INFLUENCES FROM PRC, USSR, THIRD WORLD WITH SOME INPUT FROM GUINEA AND NORTH KOREA.

-- TURN TO SOCIALISM HAS YIELDED LITTLE MATERIAL BENEFIT TO BENINESE, AS THEY RECEIVED LITTLE ASSISTANCE FROM SOCIALIST ALLIES.

-- THOUGH WEST CONTRIBUTES MAJOR PORTION OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, IT (ESPECIALLY US) HAS COME UNDER FIRE RECENTLY DUE TO RISE IN ANTI-WESTERN AND ANTI-US SENTIMENT.

EXAMPLE CITED WAS BENIN'S ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN IN LAST UNGA.

-- SUDDEN ARRESTS NOW COMMON IN BENIN AS REGIME ATTEMPTS TO ELIMINATE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES. KEREKOU REGIME HAS SURVIVED THREE COUP ATTEMPTS SINCE TAKEOVER IN 1972. LAST ATTEMPT RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN DIRECTED FROM TOGO, WHOSE BORDER WITH BENIN PERSENTLY CLOSED. THOSE CONDEMNED TO DEATH FOR PARTICIPATION IN PLOTS WILL BE EXECUTED SHORTLY, ACCORDING TO RUMORS IN COTONOU.

-- WHEN NIGERIAN COUP ATTEMPT FEBRUARY 13 FIRST ANNOUNCED IN BENIN, IT WAS HAILED AS BEING LED BY QUOTE YOUNG REVOLUTIONARIES UNQUOTE. WHEN IT FAILED, BENIN DENOUNCED NIGERIAN COUP PLOTTERS AS BEING QUOTE US-PAID IMPERIALISTS UNQUOTE.

2. MOST GLARING APPARENT ERROR IN ARTICLE IS REPORT THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 049275

BENIN DENOUNCED NIGERIAN COUP PLOTTERS AS BEING PAID BY US. FBIS REPORT OF FEBRUARY 17 ANNOUNCEMENT OF BENIN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT ON COUP STATES THAT COUP PLOTTERS WERE CALLED QUOTE AGENTS OF IMPERIALISM UNQUOTE BUT NO MENTION MADE OF US. REQUEST EMBASSY CONFIRM THAT TO DATE NO ACCUSATIONS OF US INVOLVEMENT HAVE BEEN MADE.

3. COPY OF ARTICLE BEING POUCHED. INGERSOLL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, SOCIALISM, ANTIAMERICAN FEELING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE049275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GADIES:DFF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760076-0698
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976021/aaaaaajp.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COTONOU 355
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <07 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON BENIN
TAGS: PFOR, DM, WASHINGTON POST, (DEYOUNG, KAREN)
To: COTONOU
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006